

**B. Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the claims as indicated:

Please cancel claims 1-16

17. (originally presented) A circuit for coupling a power source to a load, comprising:

a main contactor coupled in series with the power source and the load;

a pre-charge circuit comprising a first conductive path coupled in parallel with the main

contactor,

a discharge circuit comprising a second conductive path coupled in parallel with the load;

and

a controller circuit coupled to the main contactor and to the pre-charge circuit, the controller circuit operative to control the opening of the main contactor based on a current through the first conductive path.

18. (originally presented) The circuit of claim 17, further comprising a controllable

element in series with the second path, the controllable element capable of selectively making the second path non-conductive.

19. (originally presented) The circuit of claim 18, wherein the controller circuit

controls the state of the controllable element.

20. (originally presented) The circuit of claim 17, wherein the controller circuit

comprises

main contactor controller means for causing the main contactor to close when a voltage drop across a current limiting element in series with the first conductive path is less than or equal to a predetermined value.

21. (originally presented) The circuit of claim 17, wherein the controller circuit comprises

main contactor control means for causing the main contactor to open when a voltage drop across a current limiting element in series with the first conductive path is greater than a predetermined value.

22. (originally presented) The circuit of claim 17, wherein the second conductive path provides a discharge path to discharge the load when the main contactor is open.

Please cancel claims 23-26.